

APPLICATION
—OF—
J. G. HUME, M. A.,
FOR THE
CHAIR OF METAPHYSICS AND ETHICS, AND LOGIC,
IN THE
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

TO THE

TORONTO, August 14th, 1889.

Hon. G. W. Ross, LL.D.,

Minister of Education for Ontario.

SIR,—I beg leave to make application for the Chair of Metaphysics and Ethics, and Logic, in the University of Toronto.

For a record of my standing in the University, I refer you to the Registrar's statement herewith submitted.

On receiving my Degree of B.A., I at once entered upon a post-graduate course of study in Johns Hopkins University. At the mid-year's Examination I obtained the highest rank in Philosophy, and at the close of the session I won the nomination to the Fellowship in Psychology.

The following year I continued my studies in Philosophy, Psychology, and Ethics, in Harvard University. At the mid-year's Examination I won highest standing, Grade A, over 90 %, in each subject, and was awarded the Thayer Scholarship in Philosophy. At the end of the session I successfully passed the Examination for the Degree of M.A., and was appointed Roger's Fellow in Ethics.

Throughout my whole course I have endeavored to do thorough work. The fact that I gained in Johns Hopkins University the highest standing in Philosophy, and afterwards the same in Psychology, and at Harvard University the Scholarship in Philosophy and the Fellowship in Ethics, is evidence that Philosophy, Psychology, and Ethics, have alike received their due share of attention.

Should you see fit to honor me with the appointment, I should be willing to undertake the work at once, if you desired it, and would do my utmost to give satisfaction. I believe that my familiarity with the work as previously carried on in the University of Toronto, and my subsequent training in Johns Hopkins University and Harvard, should render me competent to take charge of the Philosophical Department; yet I feel convinced that it would be not only advantageous to myself, but also for the best interests of the University, if I were allowed some further time to continue my studies before undertaking the active duties of teaching. This manner of appointment would be in accordance with the well-established custom in many of the best American universities of choosing a candidate from among the graduates of the university, and allowing him time to equip himself thoroughly for the duties of an important and responsible position. It would, moreover, give an opportunity for careful preparation specially directed to the peculiar needs of this particular Department, and would also pay a fitting tribute of respect and honor to the vacant Chair.

I enclose a number of testimonials from former instructors. For the estimation in which I am held by the staff of the University of Toronto you will doubtless prefer to make direct enquiries.

I also enclose a copy of a letter of introduction given me in 1887 by my revered teacher, the late Professor George Paxton Young.

If I am honored with the appointment, it shall be my constant aim to emulate the example of a noble predecessor, and to prove myself worthy of the confidence reposed in me.

I am,

Honorable Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES GIBSON HUME.

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**The EDITH and LORNE PIERCE
COLLECTION of CANADIANA**



Queen's University at Kingston

George Paxton Young says :

" I have a high opinion of Mr. Hume's capacity for the study of Philosophy. * * * His course under me has been purely theoretical. The practical work done in Johns Hopkins will be new to him, but I shall be disappointed if he does not take to it zealously, intelligently, and with results satisfactory to his instructors."

From Maurice Hutton, M.A.

Professor of Classics, University of Toronto.

Mr. Hume attended my classes throughout his course, in connection with his classes in Philosophy, and although the task of reading for double honours presents such difficulties that it is now rarely attempted, and although Classics were not his principal subject, he qualified himself for a classical degree with honours. His success in the Department of Philosophy is a sufficient guarantee of his intelligence and mental grasp, but in addition to his other gifts to which his classical work may be permitted to bear testimony—the gift of language, of literary taste, and of expression—his classical papers incidentally proved also that he appreciated the kindred subjects of Law, History, and Political Science generally.

From J. McD. Duncan, B.A.,

Late Fellow in Metaphysics and Ethics, and Logic, in University College, and Examiner in Toronto University.

Mr. Hume has had the advantages of a thorough training under the late Professor Young in the Theoretical Department of Philosophy, while his studies at the Universities of Johns Hopkins and Harvard have given him an acquaintance with the results of modern psychological research, and have at the same time widened his knowledge of philosophical theory.

As a result of the diligent pursuit of these different courses of study Mr. Hume is peculiarly well fitted to take charge of the important department for a position at the head of which he is an applicant.

From John Seath, B.A.,

Inspector of High Schools for Ontario.

His University standing is a guarantee of his scholarship, and the late Professor Young frequently described him to me as being one of the best, if not the best, of his students. I know of no other Canadian whom I should support so heartily as Mr. Hume for the vacant Professorship in Mental and Moral Science in University College, Toronto.

ALS RECEIVED BY MR. HUME,

ABLE THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

From Dr. G. Stanley Hall,

President of Clark University, Worcester, Mass., and late Professor of Psychology in Johns Hopkins University; Editor of the American Journal of Psychology.

Mr. J. G. Hume has spent the academic year now closing in the study of Psychology, History of Philosophy, Neural Histology, and Pedagogics, in this University.

Mr. Hume is a man of great devotion to his chosen field of work and gives promise of eminence.

Had the Department of Philosophy here not been suspended for the present on account of the absence of the Professor in charge, Mr. Hume would have received the Fellowship of that Department, for which he already had all the formal endorsements and commendations over several Graduate students one year nearer their Doctor's degree.

[NOTE.—A thesis on "Theories of Apperception" was presented for the Fellowship in Johns Hopkins University.

From Dr. G. Stanley Hall,

[Second Letter].

Mr. J. G. Hume studied one year with me at Baltimore. He showed from the first unusual energy and ability in all his work.

Although experimental Psychology has not been the focus of his philosophical interest, he has a fair theoretical knowledge of it, and has breadth and insight enough to be not lacking in sympathy and appreciation of it.

In the fields of Theory of Knowledge, Ethics, and general History of Philosophy, his attainments are entirely worthy of consideration for the position I understand he seeks at Toronto.

To these, I think about in the order named above, he has devoted his chief attention, and while his work in these topics has come less under my eye, I am persuaded that should he attain distinction in these lines it would be no more than a fulfilment of the decided promise he has already shown.

From Dr. Richard T. Ely,

Professor of Political Economy, Johns Hopkins University.

Mr. Hume clearly manifested diligence in study and far more than ordinary native ability. I regard him as one of the most promising of my graduate class of the past year.

From Dr. D. C. Gilman.

President of Johns Hopkins University.

It gives me pleasure to endorse and confirm the certificates given by my colleagues, Dr. Stanley Hall and Dr. R. T. Ely, to Mr. J. G. Hume.

During Mr. Hume's residence among us I saw a good deal of him and formed a high opinion of his character, talents, and attainments, and it was a sincere regret to me and to others that the resignation of the Professor of Psychology, and the consequent interruption of our Philosophical courses, prevented Mr. Hume from remaining in Baltimore and proceeding to honors.

From Francis Bowen, LL.D.,

Alford Professor of Moral Philosophy, Harvard University.

Mr. J. G. Hume has been an assiduous and successful student here in the Department of Philosophy during this academic year and obtained at its close the well-merited distinction of a Graduate Fellowship.

It was manifest at the outset that he had much maturity of intellect and had already prosecuted his studies with good results. I think he has the qualifications of critical judgment and original thought which are requisite for success as a teacher of Philosophy, and I confidently commend him as such to any who may have occasion for his services. His demeanor and manners are frank and gentlemanly and he would be sure to win respect and trust from his pupils.

From Dr. Josiah Royce,

Professor of Philosophy, Harvard University.

He has spent the last year here, and in addition to one full College course with me on the Modern History of Nature since Spinoza, he has pursued a special graduate course of Lectures and Theses on Kant's "Kritik der Reinen Vernunft." This graduate course, adapted as it is to a small company of advanced students, has brought me into pretty close contact with Mr. Hume, so that my opinion of his work is tolerably definite.

Mr. Hume appears to me to have a very strong bent for Philosophical reflection, and a decided constructive and critical talent. He is a progressive man also, with extraordinary powers of work, and has already decidedly high attainments in the History of Philosophy, in Ethics, and in Psychology. In addition to this work with me, Mr. Hume also took a course with Professor James, who is now absent in Europe, but who, from the first, has spoken very highly of Mr. Hume's work with him.

In short, Mr. Hume came amongst us an entire stranger, and has within a year produced a marked impression of his ability and promise, and it is in no perfunctory way that I now recommend him to your most favorable attention as a teacher of Philosophy, who by his views and studies would be likely to continue work in your University along those lines of research which Professor Young specially favored.

[NOTE.—Theses on the following subjects were written during Mr. Hume's residence in Harvard.

FOR PROFESSOR ROYCE:

- "Causation."
- "Evolution."
- "Spinoza's Philosophy and Ethics."
- "Kant's Pre-critical Development."
- "Kant's Theism."

FOR PROFESSOR JAMES:

- "Sensation."

Each was ranked Grade A—over 90 per cent.]

From Francis G. Peabody, LL.D.,

Professor of Ethics, Harvard University.

Mr. Hume studied in the Philosophical courses which I conduct, and distinguished himself as a mature and zealous student, and in my private relations with him I have come to feel great confidence in his character and purposes.

I have no doubt that he will make his way to honorable and useful service.

Few better students have been with me of late years.

From the Rev. Smith Hutcheson,

Mr. Hume's first Pastor.

I firmly believe Mr. Hume would conscientiously discharge the duties of a University teacher with an earnest desire for the welfare and true interests of all students committed to his instruction and care. Mr. Hume joined the membership of Guthrie Church, Oro, while I was Minister there. I am happy to say he is an honor to the church of Christ.

From the Rev. H. M. Parsons,

Pastor of Knox Church, Toronto.

I take great pleasure in commending Mr. James Gibson Hume as a gentleman of unblemished Christian character, and of fine moral reputation. He has been for some years and is still a member of Knox Presbyterian Church.

From the Rev. Alexander Gilray,

Pastor of College Street Presbyterian Church.

From the time Mr. J. G. Hume entered the common school till the present, his course has been one of continued and marked success.

With all his distinguished attainments at home and abroad in the various universities, he has ever borne a character noted for sterling integrity and high moral worth.

Should Mr. Hume receive the position for which he is now an applicant, there is good reason for the confidence that with true independence he will efficiently maintain and advance the work of the late eminent Dr. Young.

The following, among others, have written directly to the Minister of Education:

PROFESSOR WILLIAM JAMES,

Professor of Psychology, Harvard University. Representative of the Psychologists of the United States at the Convention of Psychologists, now being held in Paris, France.

DR. DUREN J. H. WARD,

Professor of History of Philosophy, Harvard University.

J. H. HYSLOP, Ph. D.,

Professor of Philosophy in Columbia College, New York; late Fellow in Johns Hopkins University.

T. M. LOGIE, B.A.,

Late Fellow in Metaphysics and Ethics, and Logic, University of Toronto.

J. C. MORGAN, M.A.,

Inspector of Public Schools for the County of Simcoe.

THE REV. WALTER LAIDLAW, M.A., (Tor.),

Pastor of Memorial Presbyterian Church, West Troy, N.Y.

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Subsequent Letter to the Hon. G. W. Ross.

TO THE

TORONTO, August 27th, 1889.

Hon. G. W. Ross, LL.D.,

Minister of Education for Ontario.

SIR,—Since placing my application and testimonials in your hands, I have received a number of letters of recommendation which I forward to you, trusting that you will kindly consider them with the others.

I should also like to place in your hands, copies of my Theses entitled "Theories of Apperception" and "Sensation."

The Thesis on "Theories of Apperception" was presented for the Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University. It was examined by Dr. G. Stanley Hall and Professor Emmott, of Johns Hopkins University, and was awarded first place.

The Thesis on "Sensation" was written for Professor William James, of Harvard University, the eminent Psychologist. I was requested to read it before the advanced class in Psychology in Harvard, and Professor James has asked me to allow him to incorporate it in his new treatise on Psychology, which is expected to be a standard work on the subject.

The following Theses were written for Professor Josiah Royce, and were very highly commended, each one of them being ranked Grade A, (over 90 per cent.):

"Causation."

"Evolution."

"Spinoza's Philosophy and Ethics."

"Kant's Pre-critical Development."

"Kant's Theism."

A number of Essays on Ethical topics were written for Dr. Francis G. Peabody. Besides ranking them as Grade A, he has spoken highly of their merits. They are still in his possession.

I would furthermore say that I would prefer you to consider my application without reference to the fact that I am a Canadian and a Graduate of the University of Toronto, but entirely with reference to my fitness for the position; but I would also desire you to take into consideration that my studies have made me fairly familiar with the various sub-departments required in the Department of Metaphysics as taught in the University of Toronto; that is to say, I have given about equal attention to the three main divisions of the Department, History of Philosophy, Theory of Knowledge, and Moral Philosophy.

I am,

Honorable Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES GIBSON HUME.

**Statement of the Registrar of the University
of Toronto.**

Referred to in the foregoing Application.

In 1885—First-class Honors in Greek, Latin, English, History, Logic, and Metaphysics.

Scholarship in Metaphysics.

General Proficiency.

In 1886—Scholarship in Mental and Moral Science.

Lansdowne Gold Medal in Mental Science and Classics.

**Certificate of Standing, obtained by Mr. Hume
in Harvard University.**

HARVARD COLLEGE, Cambridge, Mass., Aug. 20th, 1889.

Mr. J. G. Hume took two full courses in addition to our requirements for the degree of A.M.

He took, moreover, two extra half-courses in which he has no record.

In the four full courses required, he received in each, highest standing—Grade A—equivalent to 90 per cent., or more.

In the two extra full courses his marks were above 80 per cent.

C. H. GRANDGENT,

Acting-Secretary, Harvard University.